



Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

The Latino Population of New York City, 2007

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Latino Data Project - Report 20 - December 2008

The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies is a research institute that works for the advancement of the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the United States in the doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. One of its major priorities is to provide funding and research opportunities to Latino students at the Ph.D. level.

The Center established and helps administer an interdisciplinary specialization in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies in the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

The Latino Data Project was developed with the goal of making information available on the dynamically growing Latino population of the United States and especially New York City through the analysis of extant data available from a variety of sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Institute for Health, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state and local-level data sources.

All Latino Data Project reports are available at <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies/>

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The most recent data released by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2007 indicate that New York City's Latino population increased by 2.5% between 2006 and 2007.¹ Puerto Ricans remained the largest national group among all Latinos (778,628) and 33.3% of the total Hispanic population of the City, an increase of .9% since 2006. Even though marginal, this is the first increase noted among the City's Puerto Rican population since the 1980s. Even though Dominicans decreased by 1.3% from 2006, and this is the first time since the 1980s this has occurred, they continued as New York's second largest national group (602,093) and 25.8% of all Latinos. Mexicans continued to be the fastest growing of the Latino nationalities increasing by a remarkable 9.8% between 2006 and 2007. By 2007 the City's Mexican population stood at 289,755 and 12.4% of the total Hispanic population. Mexicans in New York City have increased by 57.7% since 2000. (See Table 1).

Table 1
New York City's Latino Population by Selected Nationalities, 2007

| Nationality | 2000 | 2006 | 2007 | % of Total Hispanic Population in 2006 | % of Total Hispanic Population in 2007 | % Change 2000 - 2007 | % Change 2006-2007 | Yearly Rate of Increase 2000 - 2007 |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|--|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Puerto Rican | 799,558 | 771,984 | 778,628 | 33.8% | 33.3% | -2.6% | 0.9% | -0.4% |
| Dominican | 532,647 | 609,885 | 602,093 | 26.7% | 25.8% | 13.0% | -1.3% | 1.8% |
| Mexican | 183,792 | 263,811 | 289,755 | 11.6% | 12.4% | 57.7% | 9.8% | 6.7% |
| Ecuadorian | 146,200 | 186,469 | 201,708 | 8.2% | 8.6% | 38.0% | 8.2% | 4.7% |
| Colombian | 105,471 | 107,712 | 113,469 | 4.7% | 4.9% | 7.6% | 5.3% | 1.0% |
| Other Nationalities | 389,262 | 341,312 | 351,635 | 15.0% | 15.0% | -9.7% | 3.0% | -1.4% |
| Total Latinos | 2,156,930 | 2,281,173 | 2,337,288 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 8.4% | 2.5% | 1.2% |

Source: American Community Survey 2006 data from Steven Ruggles, Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 3.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2004 found at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa>

¹ All data in this report were derived from the U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census and American Community Surveys 2005-2007 data from Steven Ruggles, Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 3.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2004 found at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa>. Since these data were derived from samples, there is an unknown margin of error that the Census Bureau estimates at +/- 10%. Data derived from the ACS 2007 American FactFinder on the Census Bureau web site (<http://www.census.gov>) indicate that the margin of error for Puerto Ricans was +/- 2.7%; for Dominicans +/- 4%; +/- 6.5% for Mexicans; +/-7.9% for Ecuadorians and +/-7.8% for Colombians. The variable Latinos was reconstructed by CLACLS to account for ancestry and birthplace data and thus the data on each nationality may not coincide with the precise data for the variable Hispanics in the ACS 2007 release and available on the census.gov web site through American FactFinder.

The sharp rise in the Mexican-origin population between 2006 and 2007 was due in large part to continued migration to New York City. Mexicans increased by some 26,000 people from 2006 to 2007 and about 44% of these were foreign-born. Among Dominicans, the total population declined over the same period by about 7,800. Only 21.8% of the decrease is attributable to foreign-born population of Dominicans, which might point to an out-migration of domestic born Dominicans from New York City. By way of contrast an astounding 84.5% of Ecuadorian population growth over the same time period was composed of foreign-born Ecuadorians. (See table 2 for the foreign-born/ domestic-born components of population growth between 2000 and 2007).

Table 2
Foreign and Domestic-Born Components of New York City's Mexican, Dominican, and Ecuadorian Populations by Borough, 2000 - 2007

| Nationality | Borough | 2000 | | | 2006 | | | 2007 | | | % of Population Increase 2000 - 2007 Foreign-Born | % of Population Increase 2006 - 2007 Foreign-Born |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------|---------------|--------------|---------|---------------|--------------|---------|---|---|
| | | Domestic Born | Foreign-Born | Total | Domestic Born | Foreign-Born | Total | Domestic Born | Foreign-Born | Total | | |
| Mexican | Bronx | 11,419 | 23,780 | 35,199 | 24,553 | 43,211 | 67,764 | 27,148 | 43,474 | 70,622 | 55.6% | 9.2% |
| | Manhattan | 10,602 | 19,510 | 30,112 | 13,376 | 19,125 | 32,501 | 14,310 | 26,148 | 40,458 | 64.2% | 88.3% |
| | Staten Island | 2,353 | 4,888 | 7,241 | 2,645 | 8,212 | 10,857 | 4,666 | 8,021 | 12,687 | 57.5% | -10.4% |
| | Brooklyn | 18,461 | 41,345 | 59,806 | 29,759 | 46,484 | 76,243 | 35,459 | 52,800 | 88,259 | 40.3% | 52.6% |
| | Queens | 14,415 | 37,019 | 51,434 | 22,522 | 53,924 | 76,446 | 25,855 | 51,874 | 77,729 | 56.5% | -159.8% |
| | Total | 57,250 | 126,542 | 183,792 | 92,855 | 170,956 | 263,811 | 107,438 | 182,317 | 289,755 | 52.6% | 43.8% |
| Dominican | Bronx | 51,308 | 127,090 | 178,398 | 92,977 | 147,377 | 240,354 | 91,568 | 142,442 | 234,010 | 27.6% | 77.8% |
| | Manhattan | 55,258 | 127,463 | 182,721 | 69,193 | 114,504 | 183,697 | 63,053 | 110,620 | 173,673 | 186.2% | 38.7% |
| | Staten Island | 818 | 1,126 | 1,944 | 2,245 | 2,425 | 4,670 | 1,030 | 1,567 | 2,597 | 67.5% | 41.4% |
| | Brooklyn | 24,610 | 56,855 | 81,465 | 38,120 | 56,179 | 94,299 | 36,888 | 58,361 | 95,249 | 10.9% | 229.7% |
| | Queens | 29,233 | 58,886 | 88,119 | 33,893 | 52,972 | 86,865 | 37,793 | 58,771 | 96,564 | -1.4% | 59.8% |
| | Total | 161,227 | 371,420 | 532,647 | 236,428 | 373,457 | 609,885 | 230,332 | 371,761 | 602,093 | 0.5% | 21.8% |
| Ecuadorian | Bronx | 5,542 | 14,985 | 20,527 | 8,489 | 15,857 | 24,346 | 6,375 | 18,937 | 25,312 | 82.6% | 318.8% |
| | Manhattan | 4,716 | 12,221 | 16,937 | 4,845 | 8,821 | 13,666 | 7,660 | 13,114 | 20,774 | 23.3% | 60.4% |
| | Staten Island | 583 | 901 | 1,484 | 1,572 | 2,020 | 3,592 | 1,700 | 2,087 | 3,787 | 51.5% | 34.4% |
| | Brooklyn | 6,951 | 19,807 | 26,758 | 9,826 | 22,594 | 32,420 | 11,881 | 24,323 | 36,204 | 47.8% | 45.7% |
| | Queens | 17,359 | 63,135 | 80,494 | 32,503 | 79,942 | 112,445 | 31,978 | 83,653 | 115,631 | 58.4% | 116.5% |
| | Total | 35,151 | 111,049 | 146,200 | 57,235 | 129,234 | 186,469 | 59,594 | 142,114 | 201,708 | 56.0% | 84.5% |

If population growth continues at the yearly rates found between 2000 and 2007 Dominicans will surpass Puerto Ricans and become the largest sector of the City's Latino population in 2020. Mexicans will surpass Puerto Ricans to become the second largest Latino national group behind Dominicans in 2022, two years later; and in only another 2 years, by 2024, Mexicans will surpass Dominicans to become New York City's most numerous Latino nationality, in less than two decades. (Figure 1).

In 2007 Latinos comprised 28% of the City's total population. In the Bronx over 50% of all residents were Latinos; 27.5% in Queens; 25.5% in Manhattan; 20.4% in Brooklyn, and only 14.8% in Staten Island. (See Table 3).

The spatial distribution of New York City's Hispanics has remained about the same between 2000 and 2007 with about 30% of all Latinos living in the Bronx; about 22% residing in Brooklyn; 27% in Queens in 2007; 18% in Manhattan in 2007, a slight decline from the nearly 20% of all Hispanics found in 2000; and 3% in Staten Island in 2007. (See Table 4 and Figure 2).

Figure 1
Population Projections Among New York City Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans

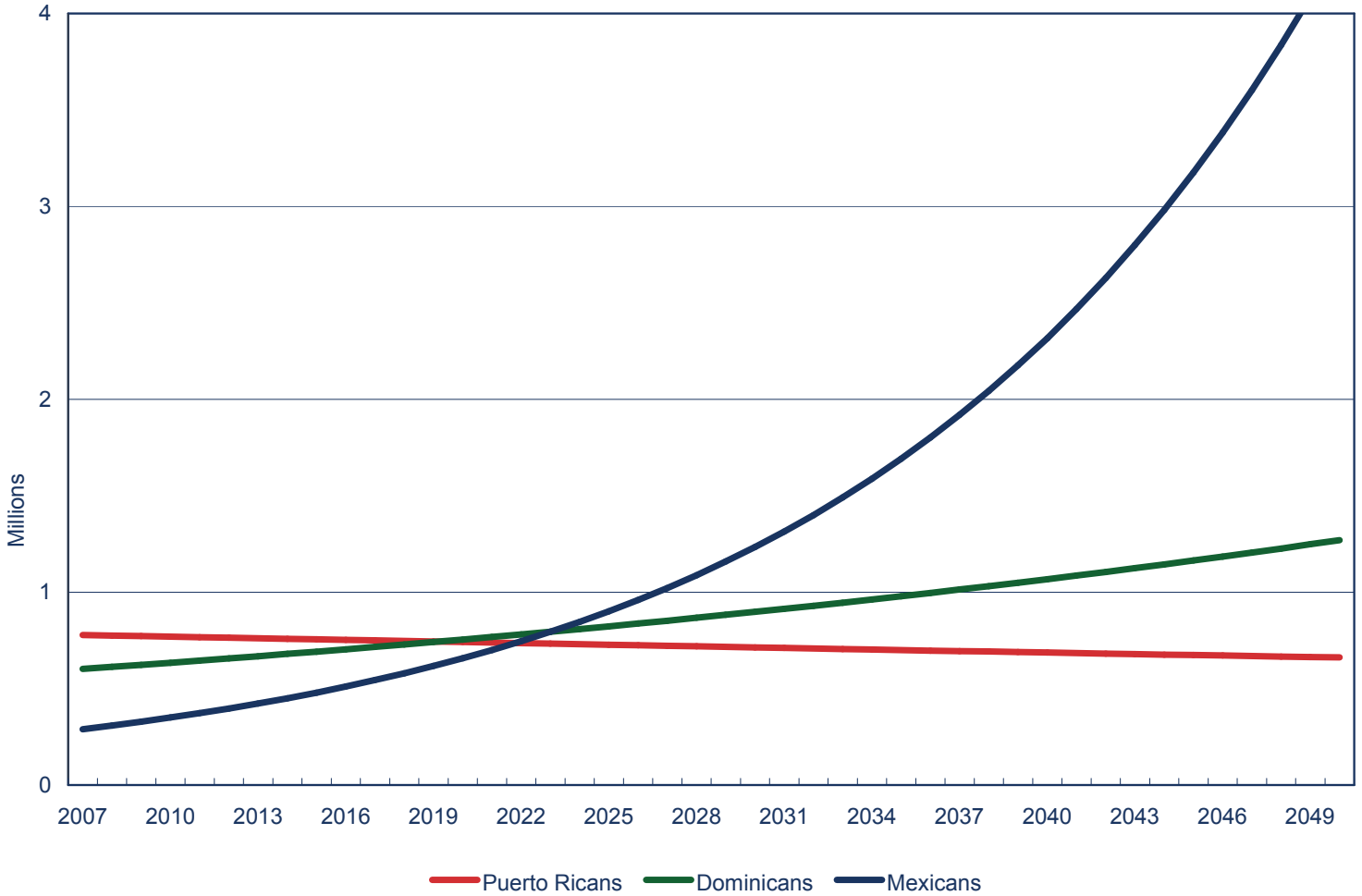
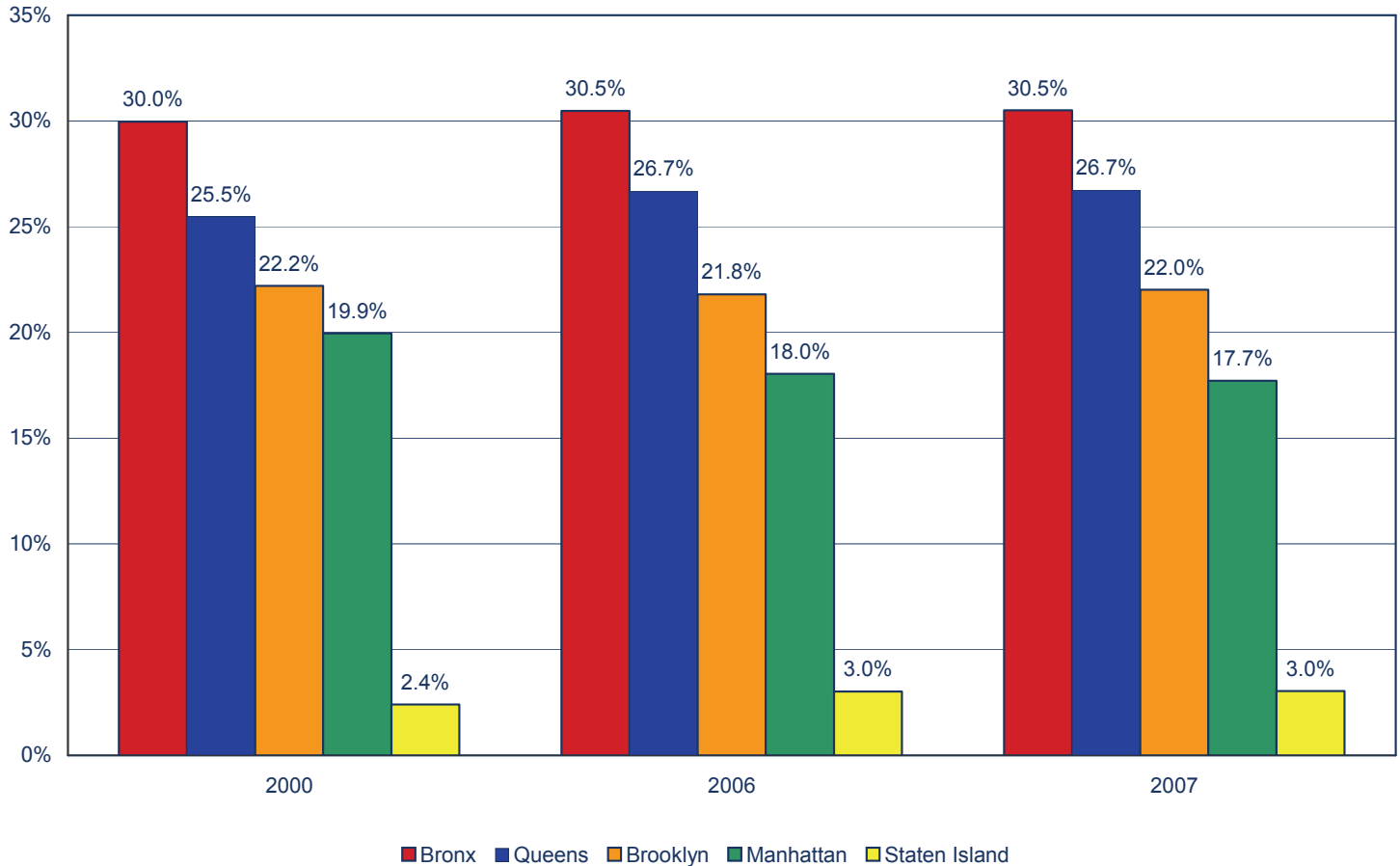


Table 3
New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity by Borough, 2007

| Race/Ethnicity | Bronx | % of Total | Brooklyn | % of Total | Manhattan | % of Total | Queens | % of Total | Staten Island | % of Total | New York City | % of Total |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Non-Hispanic White | 175,670 | 12.8% | 907,327 | 35.9% | 783,225 | 48.3% | 683,031 | 30.1% | 321,298 | 66.8% | 2,870,551 | 34.7% |
| Non-Hispanic Black | 416,509 | 30.3% | 836,712 | 33.1% | 215,333 | 13.3% | 405,310 | 17.9% | 48,320 | 10.0% | 1,922,184 | 23.2% |
| Asian | 45,554 | 3.3% | 223,185 | 8.8% | 175,178 | 10.8% | 478,910 | 21.1% | 33,688 | 7.0% | 956,515 | 11.6% |
| Latinos | 712,843 | 51.9% | 514,692 | 20.4% | 414,057 | 25.5% | 624,573 | 27.5% | 71,123 | 14.8% | 2,337,288 | 28.2% |
| Others | 23,293 | 1.7% | 46,788 | 1.9% | 33,394 | 2.1% | 78,454 | 3.5% | 6,855 | 1.4% | 188,784 | 2.3% |
| Total Population | 1,373,869 | 100.0% | 2,528,704 | 100.0% | 1,621,187 | 100.0% | 2,270,278 | 100.0% | 481,284 | 100.0% | 8,275,322 | 100.0% |

Figure 2
Distribution of Latino Population by New York City Borough, 2000 - 2007



If we examine the borough residential patterns of New York City’s largest Latino national groups in 2007 we find the following patterns (See Table 5 and Figure 3):

- **Bronx:** Puerto Ricans (44.3%) and Dominicans (32.8%) accounted for 77.1% of the Bronx’s Latino population.
- **Manhattan:** Dominicans made up 41.9% of all Manhattan Latinos; Puerto Ricans were 27.5% and together they were 69.4% of all Latinos in the borough.
- **Brooklyn:** 39% of all Latinos in Brooklyn were Puerto Ricans; 18.5% Dominicans; and 17.2% were Mexicans.
- **Queens:** Queens had the most equitable distribution of Latino national groups and no one nationality was predominant in 2007. Ecuadorians at 18.5% were the largest nationality, but only by a small margin over Puerto Ricans at 17.2% of the borough’s Latino population. Dominicans were 15.5% of all Queens Latinos; Colombians 13.4%; and Mexicans made up 12.5% of the Latino population of Queens

- Staten Island: Only 3% of the City’s Latino population resided in Staten Island. Puerto Ricans at 57.5% of all Latinos were the borough’s largest nationality followed by Mexicans at 17.8%.

Table 4
Distribution of New York City's Latino Population by Borough, 2000-2007

| Borough | Latinos 2000 | % of Total | Latinos 2006 | % of Total | Latinos 2007 | % of Total |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Bronx | 646,384 | 30.0% | 695,262 | 30.5% | 712,843 | 30.5% |
| Manhattan | 430,270 | 19.9% | 411,578 | 18.0% | 414,057 | 17.7% |
| Staten Island | 52,025 | 2.4% | 68,777 | 3.0% | 71,123 | 3.0% |
| Brooklyn | 478,836 | 22.2% | 497,139 | 21.8% | 514,692 | 22.0% |
| Queens | 549,415 | 25.5% | 608,417 | 26.7% | 624,573 | 26.7% |
| Total | 2,156,930 | 100.0% | 2,281,173 | 100.0% | 2,337,288 | 100.0% |

Table 5
Percentage of Total Latino Population of Each Borough
by Largest Latino Nationalities 2007

| Nationality | Bronx | Manhattan | Queens | Brooklyn | Staten Island |
|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|---------------|
| Puerto Ricans | 44.3% | 27.5% | 17.2% | 39.0% | 57.5% |
| Dominicans | 32.8% | 41.9% | 15.5% | 18.5% | 3.7% |
| Mexicans | 9.9% | 9.8% | 12.5% | 17.2% | 17.8% |
| Ecuadorians | 3.6% | 5.0% | 18.5% | 7.0% | 5.3% |
| Colombians | 1.0% | 1.9% | 13.4% | 2.5% | 3.0% |
| Others | 8.4% | 13.9% | 23.0% | 15.8% | 12.7% |
| Total Latinos | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

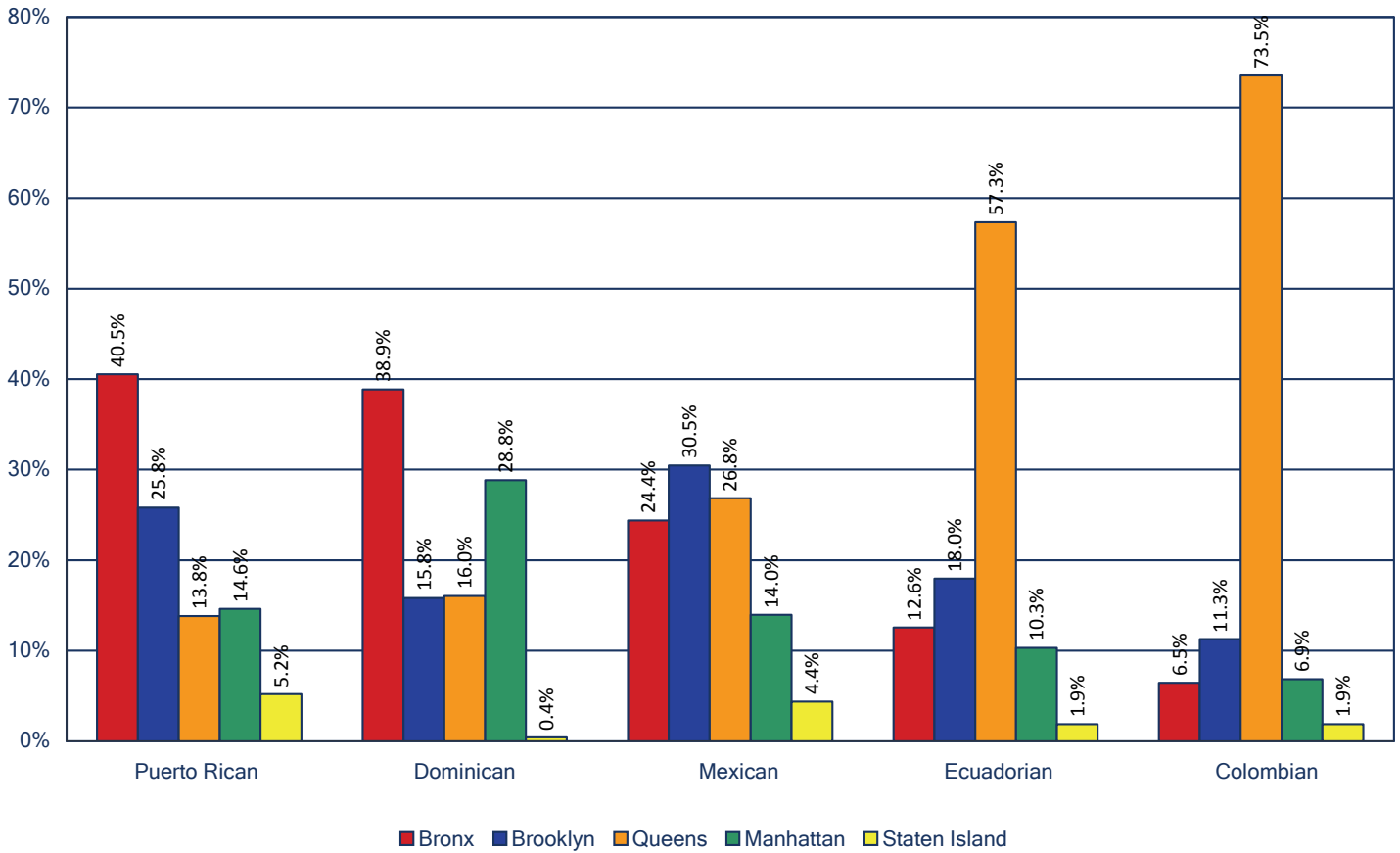
If we examine the residential patterns of New York City’s largest Latino national groups in 2007 by the boroughs in which they lived we find the following patterns (See Table 7 and Figure 4):

- **Puerto Ricans:** Nearly two-thirds of the City’s Puerto Rican population lived in the Bronx (40.5%) and Brooklyn (25.8%) while 14.6% of all Puerto Ricans lived in Manhattan, and 13.8% in Queens.
- **Dominicans:** The matrix of Dominican settlement continues to move to the Bronx where 38.9% of the City’s Dominican population lived in 2007 compared with 28.8% in Manhattan, 15.8% in Brooklyn, and 16% in Queens.
- **Mexicans:** 81.7% of the City’s Mexican population lived in Queens (26.8%), Brooklyn (30.5%), and the Bronx (24.4%). Only 14% of all NYC Mexicans lived in Manhattan.
- **Ecuadorians:** Unlike Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans, Ecuadorians were heavily concentrated in one borough - Queens - where 57.3% lived in 2007. 18% of all Ecuadorians lived in Brooklyn, and 12.6% in the Bronx.

Table 6
Percentage of Largest Latino Populations Living in Each Borough, 2007

| Borough | Puerto Ricans | Dominicans | Mexicans | Ecuadorians | Colombians |
|---------------|---------------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Bronx | 40.5% | 38.9% | 24.4% | 12.6% | 6.5% |
| Manhattan | 14.6% | 28.8% | 14.0% | 10.3% | 6.9% |
| Staten Island | 5.2% | 0.4% | 4.4% | 1.9% | 1.9% |
| Brooklyn | 25.8% | 15.8% | 30.5% | 18.0% | 11.3% |
| Queens | 13.8% | 16.0% | 26.8% | 57.3% | 73.5% |
| NYC Total | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Figure 4
Percentage of Largest Latino National Populations Living in Each Borough, 2007



The 2007 data underscore the significant transformations that have been occurring within the Latino population of New York City since the end of large-scale Puerto Rican migration in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Dominicans arrived in increasing numbers from 1980 onward and are poised to become the City’s largest Latino nationality within the next 12 years as the Puerto Rican population continues to decline. Among Dominicans there has been a shift away from the previous matrix of Dominican settlement in Washington Heights toward the Bronx where the majority of Dominicans now reside.

The City’s Mexican population continues its extraordinary expansion both because of high fertility rates and the arrival of large numbers of foreign-born Mexicans. If these trends continue into the future Mexicans will become the largest of the Latino sub-groups within the next two decades. Ecuadorians continue to increase in significant numbers. Much of this expansion can be attributed to immigration. The foreign-born account for the greater portion of growth of the City’s Ecuadorian population growth.

The Colombian population grew 5.3% between 2006 and 2007. However, within the largest Latino groups in New York City, Colombians are the smallest. The rate of population growth for Colombians is projected to be much slower than for all other groups, except Puerto Ricans. Mexicans, Dominican and Ecuadorians will far surpass Puerto Ricans and Colombians. It will be interesting to see if this trend of population contraction among Colombians and Puerto Ricans continues when the 2008 data are released next year.